

# East Milton Square Parking & Access Study

*Presented to*  
**Local Officials**

**September 28, 2010**



**Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc.**

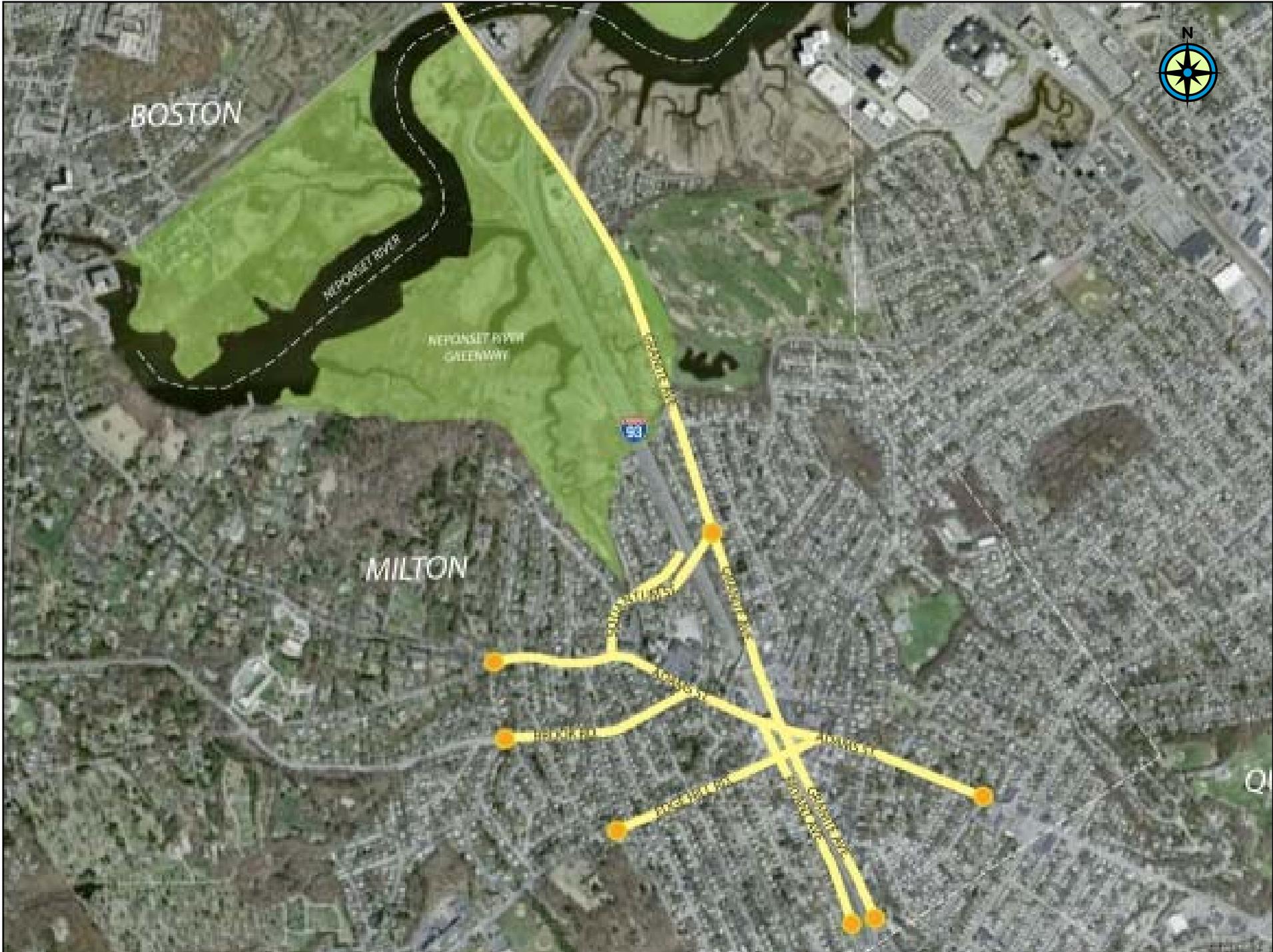
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# Topics for Tonight's Presentation

- **Project team**
- **Project overview**
- **Work to-date**
- **Evaluation criteria**
- **Next steps**
- **Q&A Session**

# Project Team

- **Town of Milton:** leadership and oversight. Determines and implements the preferred alternative.
- **MassDOT, Highway Division:** general oversight, provides funding conduit.
- **Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc. (HSH):** leads consultant team; project management, traffic, parking, public involvement, and liaison among town, team members, and agencies.
- **ICON architecture inc. (ICON):** land use and zoning
- **ICON Parks Design (IPD):** streetscape and open space.
- **Todreas Hanley Associates (THA):** review and advise on retail business vitality
- **Gill Engineering, Inc. (Gill):** structural engineering expertise



BOSTON

NEPONSET RIVER  
GREENWAY

MILTON

93



Q

## Project Background

- **East Milton Square is seen as generally healthy:**
  - Array of retail, service, and office uses
  - Surrounded by stable residential neighborhoods
- **Several generally agreed-upon issues:**
  - Bisection of the square by I-93
    - *Limited success of the Manning Community Park in bridging the divide*
    - *Less than full utilization of the park*
    - *Surface streets that can discourage pedestrian traffic.*
  - Widespread concern over parking supply

## Project Goal

- **Develop 3-5 options to redesign East Milton Square that :**
  - Provide demonstrable transportation benefits
  - Address parking concerns
  - Improve safety for all users
  - Provide environmental benefits
  - Improve aesthetics
  - Provide favorable conditions for local businesses
  - Protect surrounding neighborhoods
  - Balance costs with benefits
  - Offer a phased approach to construction
- **The Town will select the option for implementation**

# Project Timeline

- **Approximately 1 year – May 2010 – May 2011**
- **Currently gathering baseline data:**
  - Most turning movement counts complete
  - Obtained intersection geometries & signal timings
  - On/off-street parking inventory complete
- **Late 2010/early 2011: alternative development and conceptual engineering**
- **April 2011: selection of preferred alternative**
- **May 2011: team assists Town with next steps**

# Public Involvement

- **Open, effective public involvement is important to Milton and all members of the project team.**
- **Use of traditional and electronic outreach**
  - Traditional:
    - *BCAC*
    - *Local officials' briefings*
    - *Community meetings*
  - Electronic:
    - *Website: [www.eastmiltonsquarestudy.com](http://www.eastmiltonsquarestudy.com)*
    - *Facebook*
    - *Twitter*



	No Parking
	Public Parking
	Handicapped
	MBTA Bus
	Service Area

1. Service Zone Only except Sunday
2. 2-hr. Parking
3. 2-hr. Parking except 4:00-6:00 PM
4. Service Zone Only
5. 1-hr. Parking 6:30 AM-10:00 PM
6. 2-hr. Parking 7:00 AM-7:00 PM
7. 30-minute Parking 6:00 AM-7:00 PM, except Sunday/Holiday
8. 1-hr. Parking
9. 2-hr. Parking 6:00 AM-7:00 PM, except Sunday/Holiday
10. 30-minute Parking

# Parking in East Milton Square

- **Widely-held perception of inadequate parking.**
  - Need to determine whether perception is reality
  - Ensure that neighborhoods do not become parking areas.
- **Possible early/easy solutions:**
  - Improved parking regulation signage?
  - Meters – to encourage turnover?
  - Shared parking opportunities?
- **Longer-term/more difficult solutions:**
  - Creation of additional parking?
- **Any solution adopted should be data-driven.**

## Evaluation Criteria - *What would success look like?*

- **Transportation benefits**
  - Improvements in the traffic model
  - Increased pedestrian comfort
  - Shorter, more direct pedestrian pathways
  - Provision for bicycle facilities
  - Best integration of MBTA bus service
- **Parking**
  - Provide a supply of parking that meets demand demonstrated by the parking study
  - Align supply to support local business
  - Utilize shared parking where appropriate
  - Identify areas for short- and long-term parking expansion – *if appropriate*

## Evaluation Criteria - *What would success look like?*

- **Improved user safety**
  - Reduce frequency/severity of accidents
  - Reduce conflicts between vehicle movements
  - Reduce conflicts between transportation modes
- **Residential area protection**
  - Avoid circulation changes that add to cut-through traffic
  - Provide traffic calming on residential streets
  - Avoid spill-over parking from the Square
  - Does the traffic model show reduced cut-through traffic or at least holding at current levels?

## Evaluation Criteria - *What would success look like?*

- **Environmental benefit**
  - Reduction of congestion/improvement of air quality
  - Reduction in traffic noise
  - Reduce number of traffic lanes adjacent to open space
  - Decrease amount of impervious surface
  - Sustainable materials and practices
- **Open space**
  - Aesthetic treatments in keeping with community character
  - Encourage people to sit and stay
  - Activate Manning Community Park, if possible
  - Introduce new open space, civic space, landscaping, public art
  - Provide gateways to East Milton Square
  - Improve wayfinding

## Evaluation Criteria - *What would success look like?*

- **Business climate**
  - Conditions to support a mix of businesses
  - Maintain economic desirability
  - Increase retail vibrancy
  - A desirable place to work and live
- **Land use**
  - Take into account projected future land use
- **Cost/benefit**
  - Is the option a good value for what it provides?
  - Ensure price does not inhibit ability to implement
- **Phased approach**
  - Offer a stepped approach for short- and long-term progress
  - Ensure ability to construct in phases with minimal disruption

## Next Steps – Upcoming Work

### ■ **October:**

- BCAC Meeting to discuss evaluation criteria
- Initial community meeting to share evaluation criteria and hear community concerns

### ■ **November:**

- Recount of Adams Street/Centre Street intersection
- Parking turnover study

### ■ **December (and into 2011):**

- Development of alternatives
- Preliminary engineering

## **Question & Answer Session**

- **What are your concerns regarding the project?**
- **What would you like to see changed in East Milton Square? Kept the same?**
- **Do you feel we have the right goals? Evaluation criteria?**